

South Dakota National Guard

Public Affairs Office

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Fort Meade OCS program to temporarily relocate to Camp Rapid

RAPID CITY, S.D. – The South Dakota Army National Guard’s Officer Candidate School program based at Fort Meade will be temporarily relocated to Camp Rapid from March–July, due to several construction projects in facilities used by the program.

Members of the Rapid City community who live or work in the vicinity of Camp Rapid may notice an increase in noise level associated with OCS program ceremonies, traditions and training events.

The public can expect to hear Reveille and Retreat music to be played at 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. on the weekends of March 4-5; April 8-9; May 6-7; and daily from June 3–July 29 during OCS’s accelerated program. The playing of Retreat at 5 p.m. will also be accompanied by loud simulated cannon fire.

Throughout July, the public can also expect to hear simulated small-arms fire and explosions as part of OCS training at the West Camp Rapid training area west of Stevens High School.

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EDITORS/ NEWS DIRECTORS NOTE: The OCS program evaluates the leadership potential and develops the skills of enlisted soldiers seeking to become officers in the Army National Guard.

Officer candidates train for many hours on basic military tasks including physical training, drill and ceremony, military tactics and troop leading procedures. During the training, the candidates are placed in high-stress, high-intensity environments and challenged to make leadership decisions.

The OCS program is composed of three-phases in either a “traditional” 14-month course option, or the “accelerated” eight-week course held during the summer. Candidates are tested academically and physically in both the classroom and field environments.